REMARKS

In order to expedite prosecution of this application, claim 59 has been canceled, new claim 73 has been inserted and claims 60-72 have been made dependent upon claim 73 or upon a claim that is dependent upon claim 73. Reconsideration and allowance of the application as amended are respectfully requested.

As pointed out in claim 73, the present invention concerns a novel method of illuminating a candle of a gaming machine. A candle is provided having a first stage and also having a second stage that is vertically aligned with the first stage. A plurality of multi-colored LEDs are provided within the first stage and plurality of multi-colored LEDs are also provided within the second stage. The candle is mounted to a gaming machine and the LEDs of the first stage and the second stage are connected to a processor associated with the gaming machine. The processor is programmed to remotely trigger one or more of the LEDs within at least one stage, to provide a selected color illumination pattern upon occurrence of a first event of the gaming machine.

For example, the colors of the LEDs in each stage may be the primary colors red, yellow, and blue. If, for example, the first stage is to be illuminated red, the processor would remotely trigger the red LED within the first stage. Or, if the second stage is to be blue, the processor would remotely trigger the blue LED within the second stage. Further, if the first stage were to be green, the processor would remotely trigger the yellow and blue LEDs of the first stage to provide a green illumination. Likewise, many different combinations of colors can be provided in each of the stages as a result of the remote triggering of the appropriate multi-colored LEDs.

It can be readily be seen that this invention provides a method that is completely different from anything previously known in the art and is a substantial and patentable improvement in the art. In the prior art, the slot machines used candles containing incandescent light bulbs surrounded by a clear or translucent plastic cylindrical shell. This, for example, is shown in the Hoorn et al. patent cited by the Examiner. In the prior art, such as with the Hoorn et al. candle, if the colors have to be changed, there is a difficult and time consuming operation. Ordinarily, it requires that a casino service technician climb to the top of the gaming machine, dismantle the candle, remove the colored plastic film within the candle that is undesirable, and then insert a new colored film at the desired stage of the candle. In short, the colors in the prior art candles are derived from the plastic insert which covers the incandescent bulb, and which plastic insert must be manually removed with a new plastic insert provided.

The elimination of all of these problems concomitant with the prior art candles is a great feature of the present invention. Thus instead of requiring an incandescent bulb with a colored plastic film inserted within a candle shell, and instead of requiring manual removal of the colored film and insertion of a new colored film, the present invention uses a number of colored LEDs to thereby providing a colored display. A processor is programmed to remotely trigger one or more of the LEDs to provide a selected color illumination pattern upon an occurrence of an event of the gaming machine.

Hoorne et al. does not teach anything even resembling this and in fact teaches away from the novel candle of the present invention. Hoorne discloses the type of candle (with incandescent bulb and plastic insert) that the present invention is intended to improve upon.

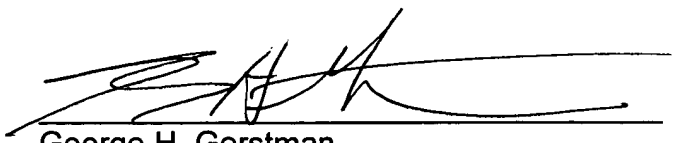
Molinaroli does not remedy the deficiencies of Hoorne et al. Molinaroli discloses a device having a row of LEDs whereby dynamic movement of the row of LEDs forms words. **This is totally unrelated to the static use of multi-colored LEDs in a gaming device candle.** There is no suggested combination of Hoorne et al. and Molinaroli, nor would such combination be obvious or even feasible.

It can also be seen that applicant has not simply substituted LEDs for incandescent bulbs. The present invention uses multi-colored LEDs, without requiring the replacement of plastic inserts as in the prior art, and enables remote triggering of the colored LEDs to provide a selected color illumination pattern upon occurrence of an event of the gaming machine. This is a tremendous step in the art and is clearly patentable.

A sincere effort has been made to provide claims which are clearly patentable over the prior art references, whether taken singly or in combination with each. In view of the foregoing Amendment and remarks, the Examiner is urged to pass the application to issue at an early date.

If for some reason the Examiner does not believe the application is in condition for allowance, he is respectfully asked to telephone counsel for Applicant in Chicago, direct telephone no. (312) 269-8567.

Respectfully submitted,
SEYFARTH SHAW LLP



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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop: Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on Nov. 12, 2004.

Registered Attorney for Applicant
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